

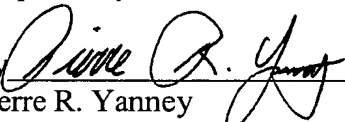
Claims 31-33 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 31 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the limitations of base claim 30. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 31 and 32 are now allowable. Claim 33 now depends from allowable claim 32. Therefore, claim 33 is believed to be now allowable. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims, claims 14, 31-33, 47, and 48 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: August 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Pierre R. Yanney

Registration No.: 35,418
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant